

Message Text

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SUBJ: NOTICE OF CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS AND
CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY MARK DANISH LEADERS' NEW YEAR ADDRESSES

SUMMARY: QUEEN MARGRETHE AND PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN MARKED
END OF 1976 BY POINTING TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION AND
ITS EFFECT ON DENMARK. BOTH CALLED FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG DANES
TO LIMIT EFFECTS AT HOME. QUEEN FONDLY RECALLED HER VISIT TO
THE UNITED STATES AND PRIME MINISTER REJECTED SPECULATION THAT
ELECTIONS SHOULD BE CALLED IN DENMARK IN 1977. END SUMMARY.

1. QUEEN MARGRETHE'S SPEECH, ASIDE FROM USUAL GREETINGS TO
VARIOUS SECTORS OF POPULATION AND THANKS FOR KINDNESSES RECEIVED,
FONDLY RECALLED TRIP TO US AND MEETINGS WITH DANISH-AMERICANS.
AND SHE CALLED TO MIND THE ADVERSITY SUFFERED BY MANY DANES IN
1976 AS A RESULT OF WORLD'S ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN. ASKING RHETORI-
CALLY "WHAT ARE WE AFTER?", THE QUEEN INSISTED THAT HAPPINESS
IS TO BE FOUND IN SEEKING IT FOR OTHERS. SHE SAID THAT THE FATE
OF ALL MEN IS IN THE HANDS OF THEIR NEIGHBORS AND PLEADED FOR
RECOGNITION THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL HAD A RESPONSIBILITY FOR OTHERS.
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THE QUEEN SAID THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS WAS LAST-
ING LONGER THAN EXPECTED, BUT THAT MUCH IN 1977 WOULD, NEVERTHE-
LESS, DEPEND ON THE BEHAVIOR OF THE DANES. SHE CALLED FOR A
SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY - AT HOME, AS WELL AS AMONG NATIONS - AS
OPPOSED TO EGOISM.

2. PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN STATED THAT ALTHOUGH SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT COULD BE NOTED, THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS WAS THE WORST SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THEN OUTLINED THE PROBLEM FACING THE GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND A HIGH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT. HE CALLED ON LABOR AND MANAGEMENT TO AGREE ON A NEW NATIONAL WAGE AGREEMENT WITHIN THE PARAMETERS LAID DOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND SAID IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF THE AGREEMENT HAD TO BE IMPOSED BY PARLIAMENTARY ACTION.

3. JORGENSEN SAID THAT CURRENT RESTRICTIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES MUST BE PURSUED EVEN FURTHER AND WARNED THAT CONSUMPTION GROWTH MUST BE SLOWED AND INFLATION REDUCED TO LESS THAN THAT OF DENMARK'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS. HE RECALLED THAT ALMOST TWO YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THE LAST ELECTION, BUT COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE. CONSEQUENTLY, DENMARK OUGHT NOT TO HAVE ELECTIONS IN 1977, HE SAID.
DEAN

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